

of men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.' ”

1. Verses 12 and 13 will be fulfilled in two different ways by two completely different people. David’s son Solomon would build a physical house for God. David’s greater son, Jesus, would build a spiritual house for God (Ephesians 2:19-22)? What do these two houses have in common? How are they completely different?
2. How does God describe his ongoing relationship with each successive Davidic King?
3. What does a Father/Son relationship imply?
4. How will God discipline disobedient kings?
5. The floggings of men refers to God’s promise that God would judge his people by handing them over to their enemies. This prophecy was also fulfilled by two different people in two completely different ways. It was fulfilled in God’s punishment of Zedekiah (2 Kings 24:18-25:6), and it was fulfilled in God’s punishment of Jesus on our behalf? What do these two men have in common? How are they completely different?

D. David Responds in Gratitude and Awe (vv. 18-19)

¹⁸ Then King David went in and sat before the Lord, and he said: “Who am I, Sovereign Lord, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?

¹⁹ And as if this were not enough in your sight, Sovereign Lord, you have also spoken about the future of the house of your servant—and this decree, Sovereign Lord, is for a mere human!

1. How does David respond to the magnitude of God’s promises?
2. The Old Testament mentions several postures we can, and probably should, employ in worship—standing (Psalm 134), hands raised (Psalm 28:2, 63:3-4), kneeling (Psalm 95:67), lying prostrate (Deuteronomy 9:18), clapping (Psalm 47:1), dancing (Jeremiah 31:4,13; Psalm 150) and even shouting (Psalm 32:11; 71:23). Sitting before the Lord is unique.

Why do you think David went into the house of the Lord and simply sat before him?
3. How should we respond to the magnitude of God’s promises to us?



The Biblical Story is a story of a kingdom lost and a kingdom restored. God establishes his kingdom in Eden. We were created to live and thrive under God’s gracious rule, to reflect his heart and character in the world, and steward his good gifts for his glory and the benefit of others. The kingdom priority of living for the glory of God by serving others is established from the very beginning.

Rather than receiving the Kingdom with grace and gratitude, we rejected it out of hand. Rather than living under his gracious rule, we chose to forge our own path. Rather than trusting God to lead us into what was good and best for us, we reserved the right to make the final call for ourselves.

As a result, our world was thrown into chaos. We are estranged from God, alienated from each other, at odds with the rest of creation, and not at all comfortable in our own skin. Rather than living for God’s glory and the benefit of others, we chose to live for ourselves. Rather than embracing God’s kingdom, we chose to pursue a kingdom of our own making.

God begins a modest rescue plan in the person of Abraham. God will bless Abraham, Abraham’s descendants will become a great nation, and through that nation all the nations of the earth will be blessed (Genesis 12:1-3). In the same way Adam and Eve were created to steward God’s good gifts for his glory and the benefit of others, God will bless Abraham and his descendants, so that they will be a conduit of God’s blessing to the world.

What God initiates in creation and begins to restore in Abraham will take a huge leap forward as Israel demands one kind of king, but God promises them a different kind of king altogether.

It is not that God did not intend for them to have a king. Abraham was promised that kings would come from his line (Genesis 7:6; 16). When Jacob blessed his son, Judah, he predicted, “The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall

be his (Genesis 49:10).” Even the pagan prophet Balaam foresaw a king rising from Israel. “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel (Exodus 24:17).”

Israel asked for a king like the rest of the nations. That’s what they got in Saul. God had another kind of king in mind. While David was far from perfect, he was a king after God’s own heart (1 Samuel 13:14). God promises that one day, one of David’s heirs would reign over an eternal kingdom and not only restore the fortunes of Israel, but renew all of creation.

DAVID DESIRES TO BUILD A HOUSE FOR GOD (vv. 1-3)

After the king was settled in his palace and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ² he said to Nathan the prophet, “Here I am, living in a house of cedar, while the ark of God remains in a tent.”

³ *Nathan replied to the king, “Whatever you have in mind, go ahead and do it, for the Lord is with you.”*

1. The author of 2 Samuel sets up a deliberate contrast between David’s house and God’s house. How does he describe David’s house? How does he describe God’s house? What is striking about the contrast?
2. While David shares his intentions with Nathan, and Nathan gives him the OK, who have they failed to include in the conversation?
3. Why is it important that we seek the heart of God before we attempt to do great things for God?
4. What is the best way we can know the heart of God?

GOD SAYS, “THANKS, BUT NO THANKS” (vv. 4-7)

⁴ *But that night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, saying:*

⁵ *“Go and tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord says: Are you the one to build me a house to dwell in?’ ⁶ I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought the Israelites up out of Egypt to this day. I have been moving from place to place with a tent as my dwelling. ⁷ Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their rulers whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’*

1. What did the tabernacle represent in the life of God’s people?
2. What do we learn about the heart of God from these verses?

GOD PROMISES TO BUILD A HOUSE FOR DAVID (vv. 4-19)

A. God Reminds David of Their Journey So Far (8-9a)

⁸ *“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the Lord Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹ I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you.*

1. Why do you think God reminds David of what he had done for David in the past before he reveals what he will do for David in the future?
2. What are some of the ways God has been gracious to us in the past?
3. Why is it important to remember and rejoice in God’s faithfulness as we face an uncertain future?

B. God Makes Some Incredible Promises for the Immediate Future (9b-11a)

Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth. ¹⁰ And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning ¹¹ and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders ^h over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies.

Rest is an important concept in Scripture. The Sabbath was designated a day of rest where we could cease from our labor in order to enter into and celebrate the fruit of God’s labor (Genesis 2:3). Both the Old and the New Testaments describe the promised land as a place of rest (Joshua 1:13; Hebrews 3:16-18). The writer of Hebrews encourages us to make sure we do not fail to enter God’s rest (Hebrews 4:9-11). Jesus invites all who are weary to come to him and find rest for their souls (Matthew 11:28).

1. What does the Bible have in mind when it speaks of rest?
2. How does salvation by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone provide rest for a weary soul?

C. God Makes Some Even More Incredible Promises for the Distant Future (11b-17)

“The Lord declares to you that the Lord himself will establish a house for you: ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod